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every one of its members spoken for long before graduation, and a waiting list of twice as many positions is in the Principal's files.

The nursing organizations of Europe and America have proved by this time that they will live. They have a firm educational background, particularly among the more advanced members, they have freedom for development along their own lines, with elasticity allowing for growth, they are on a sound economic basis of self-support, and they have within themselves the elements of growth. Is this true also in China? It is still somewhat early to make a definite statement. The profession in China is yet in its infancy. The majority of the members of the Nurses' Association are still foreigners. The future of the profession has not yet left the hands of its foreign teachers, and they can mould it as they will. More translations of nursing textbooks, and a better grade of instruction in schools of nursing, are the first requisites, to provide the firm educational background. When that has been done, the Chinese, who have always respected education, putting the scholar as the first of their social classes, should know how to keep up standards. There is considerable organizing ability among them. The students in schools carry on their own sports, entertainments, etc., if they have once been given a model, and usually they can improve on this model. The future of nursing in China rests with those nurses at home who are willing to work for it. Shall we allow Dark Ages to intervene, or shall we see that progress continues steadily upward?

THE NEED FOR MORE AND BETTER TUBERCULOSIS NURSES

BY MARY A. ISENBERG, R.N.

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The demand for nurses trained for tuberculosis nursing is increasing daily and the supply, unfortunately, is very inadequate.

The fact that 150,000 persons die annually from this disease in our country is awakening the people to the need of tuberculosis sanatoria, of hospitals built especially for combating this disease, of doctors, and nurses specially trained for this purpose.

Tuberculosis nursing is gradually becoming recognized as a special branch of nursing, but not one by itself. A nurse trained in tuberculosis only, is greatly handicapped if she does not have some knowledge of the care of general diseases. The reason for this is that tuberculous patients may present any number of complications and

symptoms. Epidemics occur in these places, just as they do in other communities, and the nurse knowing nothing but tuberculosis would be at a great loss in such a situation. This is but one of many illustrations that might be used.

Tuberculosis alone needs little actual nursing care; it is the numerous complications, the various types of the disease, the mental attitude of the patient, that require a woman of the highest order of intelligence and training,—in no other disease does the mental attitude of the patient play so important a part in his ultimate recovery.

It is becoming more and more apparent each day that nurses specially trained for this work are needed. The nurse receiving her training in a general hospital, alone, receives little or no instruction in the care of tuberculosis, and has no actual experience in nursing it, owing to the fact that most general hospitals make no provision for this class of patients. Many nurses object to nursing tuberculous patients, either from fear of contracting the disease, or from conscientious scruples, because of lack of knowledge and experience.

The treatment of tuberculosis has become highly specialized in the last few years, the number of physicians who are devoting themselves exclusively to the subject being evidence of the truth of this statement. The need of nurses specially trained, in addition to their general training, is shown by the ever increasing demands which are inadequately supplied at the present time.

If the various state boards of examiners would demand at least a three months' course in this work, either during or following the general hospital training, the number of tuberculosis nurses would be greatly augmented and a wider knowledge of the special prophylaxis of the disease disseminated. One of the greatest reasons for the lack of nurses thus trained is the fact that the matter is never presented to them in the general hospital training schools, and they are never brought to realize how very useful they could be to a greater number of people. It is the belief of many graduates of general training schools, that this work is only "child's play." In our personal experience with such nurses in sanatorium work, nurses have been brought in to help out in an emergency who have so expressed themselves after but a few days' work. In following up these nurses, later, we found them to be the superficial type, enjoying only the spectacular and exciting incidents in nursing life, failing to grasp its deeper meaning. Those nurses devoting themselves to its study find it anything but "child's play," but rather, a subject presenting an ever increasing field of interest where the harvest truly is great, and the laborers but few. This much for the graduate of the general training school.

For those graduates of the tuberculosis training schools,—What girl or woman is better adapted to this work than the arrested case of tuberculosis? Other qualifications being considered, as education, etc., not only from her personal experience with the disease, which develops a sympathy with, and an appreciation of the mental attitude, but the fact that she has had and has overcome the disease, supplies an object lesson to the patient who is in constant need of such an example through a long, tedious, and often-times discouraging period of recovery. But here again we are handicapped owing to the lack of provision for registration of these nurses, or for affiliation with general schools of nursing leading up to state registration.

There is a general supposition among nurses that the curricula of these schools are deficient. This is not true, as there is good theoretical instruction given on such subjects as are not presented by tuberculosis nursing, which could be supplemented by actual experience and practice in affiliation. The fear of allowing these girls to live in close communication with the nurses of the general training schools is unfounded, as less illness is found among the nurses of the tuberculosis training school than in the schools of the general hospitals. These nurses are selected with great care, from the arrested incipient cases, only, and have been taught even more carefully the need of protecting all coughs and sneezes than are any other class of nurses.

In view of all these facts the states should provide some form of recognition of the standing of these nurses, by affording an opportunity to affiliate with a general hospital to complete their training, and by subsequent registration as graduate registered nurses. It would give these nurses the standing they deserve and would afford protection to the public in the care of tuberculous patients in their homes.

ITEMS

We regret to hear that the *Nursing Journal of India* will temporarily suspend publication. Our best hopes go to the nurses in India that they may soon resume their organization activities.

There are evidently going to be histories prepared in many countries, on the war nursing experiences. New Zealand is going to have one, and Australian nurses are to be included in the "War Record of the People of Australia." No doubt other countries will announce nursing histories on these lines.